

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 ICAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05
NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 INRE-00 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10
EA-10 EUR-12 SSM-03 HA-05 NSCE-00 /095 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNESCO:WPO'BRIEN:JU
APPROVED BY IO:GADALLEY
IO/UNESCO - CWARVARIV
L/UNA - AKRECZKO (SUBS.)
IO/UNP - RHARE (SUBS.)
NEA/IAI - WBSMITH (SUBS.)
-----125281 012012Z /65
O R 012004Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO, IS

SUBJECT: UNESCO 104TH EXECUTIVE BOARD: ITEM 3.4.2.3
(104 EX/7)

1. FOLLOWING ARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR USDEL ON ITEM 3.4.2.3.,
JIU REPORT: AFRICA AND WESTERN ASIA: REPORT ON THE
TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROVIDED BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
TO REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION
MOVEMENTS (104 EX/7).

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2. UNITED STATES POSITION:

A. USDEL MAY DRAW ON ITS OWN EXPERT KNOWLEDGE IN COMMENT-
ING ON THE JIU REPORT AND DG'S OBSERVATIONS.

B. USDEL SHOULD EXPRESS U.S. GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN THAT
UNESCO HAS ENTERED INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PLO TO

ESTABLISH THE PALESTINIAN OPEN UNIVERSITY, DRAWING UPON
PARAGRAPH D IN DISCUSSION FOR ITS COMMENTS.

3. DISCUSSION:

A. ACTING UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, THE
DIRECTOR GENERAL HAS ENTERED INTO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

WITH THE OAU, THE ARAB LEAGUE, AND MANY, IF NOT MOST, OF
THE REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN AFRICA AND
WESTERN ASIA AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JIU. THE USDEL IS IN
A BETTER POSITION THAN THE DEPARTMENT TO EVALUATE AND
COMMENT UPON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS.

B. AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF UNESCO'S COOPERATION WITH
REGIONAL GROUPS IN THE ARAB WORLD, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
(PARAGRAPH 14) NOTES THAT THE ARAB FUND FOR ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT HAS ENTRUSTED UNESCO WITH THE EXECUTION
OF THE PROJECT FOR ESTABLISHING THE PALESTINIAN OPEN
UNIVERSITY. ALTHOUGH NO FORMAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT HAS
YET BEEN SIGNED WITH THE FUND, AN AGREEMENT FOR THE
PROJECT HAS ALREADY BEEN SIGNED BETWEEN UNESCO, THE FUND,
AND THE PLO.

C. AUTHORITY FOR ENTERING INTO THIS AGREEMENT PRESUMABLY
RESTS ON THOSE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 18TH GENERAL
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CONFERENCE BESTOWING LEGITIMACY ON THE PLO (6.33, 11.1
AND 18.2) AND "INVITING" THE DIRECTOR GENERAL "TO
COOPERATE WITH THE ARAB STATES CONCERNED AND WITH THE
PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING
POPULATIONS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES WITH
EVERY MEANS OF ENJOYING THEIR RIGHTS TO EDUCATION AND
CULTURE" (13.1) AND ON THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S AUTHORITY
TO ENTER INTO FUNDS-IN-TRUST ARRANGEMENTS.

D. WE ARE DISTRESSED THAT UNESCO HAS ENTERED INTO SUCH
A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PLO, A NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITY
WHICH ADVOCATES THE DESTRUCTION OF ONE OF UNESCO'S MEMBER
STATES, RATHER THAN EXTENDING ASSISTANCE TO THE
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE THROUGH THE AGENCY ESTABLISHED FOR
THIS PURPOSE, THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY.
THE UNITED STATES STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE EXPANSION OF
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE THRO-
UGH UNRWA, AS AFFIRMED BY OUR SUPPORT FOR THE ADOPTION
OF UNGA RESOLUTION 32/90/F. WE URGE THAT UNESCO CONTINUE
TO CARRY OUT ITS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR THE PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE THROUGH UNRWA, WITH WHICH UNESCO HAS BEEN
ASSOCIATED SINCE 1950.

4. FYI: TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS IS FIRST TIME THAT ANY
SPECIALIZED AGENCY HAS ENTERED INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE
PLO, AND DEPT. BELIEVES THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT VIEWS SHOULD
BE PLACED ON RECORD. END FYI. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE110459
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WPO\BRIEN:JU
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780185-1062
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197805105/aaaadlvpl
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 00a6a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2529377
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO 104TH EXECUTIVE BOARD: ITEM 3.4.2.3 (104 EX/7)
TAGS: AORG, OCON, IS, UNESCO
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/00a6a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014